

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/087194 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61K 38/17**, **A61P 3/00**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/003417
- (22) International Filing Date: 31 March 2004 (31.03.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
03007274.8 31 March 2003 (31.03.2003) EP
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),
Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), Euro-
pean (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR,
GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK,
TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 February 2005
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: USE OF A DG931 PROTEIN FOR TREATING DIABETES, OBESITY AND METABOLIC SYNDROME

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses proteins secreted by the developing pancreas, and polynucleotides, which identify and encode these proteins. The invention also relates to the use of these sequences in the diagnosis, study, prevention, and treatment of metabolic diseases and disorders.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/003417

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61K38/17 A61P3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, Sequence Search, BIOSIS, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/21651 A (LEXICON GENETICS INC) 29 March 2001 (2001-03-29) cited in the application page 1 - page 5 page 10, line 17 - page 12, line 30 page 13, line 16 - line 22	16-21, 31, 32
X	WO 02/22802 A (GLAXO GROUP LTD ; SMITHKLINE BEECHAM PLC (GB); SMITHKLINE BEECHAM CORP) 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) cited in the application pages 24, 36 page 109 - page 111 page 211 - page 212 ----- -/--	1-14, 16, 19-21, 32

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

22 October 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/11/2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/003417

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 03/016475 A (BAYER AG ; D URSO DONATELLA (DE); BEFORT KATIA (FR); GEN HOSPITAL CORP) 27 February 2003 (2003-02-27) table 2 claim 20 -----	1-14,32
X	US 2003/059768 A1 (SPADERNA STEVEN K ET AL) 27 March 2003 (2003-03-27) cited in the application tables 1,32,34 paragraphs '0298!, '0302!, '0303!; claims 20,21 -----	16,21
X	DATABASE UNIPROT EMBL/EBI; Hypothetical protein DKFZp434B044 1 March 2001 (2001-03-01), EMBL-EBI: "Q9H0B8" XP002302273 retrieved from WWW.EBI.AC.UK accession no. Q9H0B8 Database accession no. Q9H0B8 abstract -----	19,20,32

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 22-26; 1-21,27-32 (partially)

Present claims 1-32 relate to a products, compounds, methods, etc. defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely:

- a) "functional fragment", "isoform", "variant", "homologue" of DG931
- b) "effector / modulator" of DG931
- c) "a medicament for the controlling the function of a gene and/or a gene product which is influenced and/or modified by a DG931 polypeptide"
- d) a screening method based on "a binding target/agent of DG931 polypeptide"
- e) a screening method based on an "(reference) activity of DG931"
- f) compositions identified through the screening methods

The claims cover all products, compounds, methods, etc. having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 6 PCT and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 5 PCT for only a very limited number of such products, compounds, methods, etc.. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 6 PCT). An attempt is made to define the products, compounds, methods, etc. by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the products, compounds, methods, etc.

- a) full length DG931 only
- b) antibodies, aptamers
- c) the diseases enumerated eg in claim 27
- d) none - no such binding agent is known (reach-through claims)
- e) none - no activity of DG931 is known (reach-through claims)
- f) none - no such composition has been identified (reach-through claims)

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/003417

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 22-26; 1-21, 27-32 (partially)
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2004/003417

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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